

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19906 211637Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: ELEVATION OF BREZHNEV'S SON TO DEPUTY MINISTER OF
FOREIGN TRADE

1. PROTOCOL OFFICE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) HAS
CONFIRMED TO US REPORT THAT YURIY LEONIDOVICH BREZHNEV, SON OF
LEONID BREZHNEV, WAS ELEVATED DECEMBER 14 TO POSITION OF
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR
TRANSPORTATION MATTERS. YOUNGER BREZHNEV HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF
FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATION V/O PROMSYR'YEIMPORT SINCE
NOVEMBER 1970.

2. REPORT OF YURY BREZHNEV PROMOTION WAS BROADCAST ON RUSSIAN-
LANGUAGE MORNING NEWS PROGRAM OF DEUTSCHE WELLE, DECEMBER 20.
WHEN E/C COUNSELOR ASKED MFA OFFICIAL ABOUT IT AT MFA RECEPTION
FOR EMBASSY ON EVENING OF DECEMBER 20, OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD NOT
HEARD OF BREZHNEV PROMOTION AND SUGGESTED WE LISTEN INSTEAD TO
RADIO MOSCOW.

3. COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR PRECISELY WHAT KIND OF TRANSPORT
MATTERS YURY BREZHNEV WILL HANDLE. IT APPEARS TO BE ANEW
POSITION IN THE MFT. THERE ARE OF COURSE SEPARATE MINISTRIES IN
THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR CIVIL AVIATION, MARITIME AFFAIRS,
ETC., AND THESE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN INVOLVED IN CONTENTIOUS ISSUES
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19906 211637Z

WITH THE USG AND MANY OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. A NUMBER OF
SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS, SUBSUMED UNDER THE MFT,
DO HANDLE TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, AND BREZHNEV WILL PROBABLY BE
PLACED IN GENERAL SUPERVISION OVER THEIR ACTIVITIES. HIS PREVIOUS
POSITION, WHICH DEALS WITH TRADE IN PIG IRON, STEEL PLATES,
METAL HARDWARE, ETC., IS HARDLY THE OPTIMAL EXPERIENCE FOR A

KEY SLOT IN THE TRANSPORTATION FIELD, HOWEVER.

4. WE HAVE HEARD THAT THERE IS A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEONID BREZHNEV AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV, AND EVENTS DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF SECRETARY SIMON SEEMED TO UNDERSCORE IT. THE ELEVATION OF THE YOUNGER BREZHNEV TO THE POSITION OF DEPUTY TO PATOLICHEV SHOULD DO NOTHING TO HARM THIS RELATIONSHIP OR WEAKEN THE INFLUENCE OF THE MFT IN THE HANDLING OF FOREIGN TRADE RELATED ISSUES.
MATLOCK

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